



Home Office

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Dear Antonio,

Thank you for submitting the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report (Caroline) for Ashfield Community Safety Partnership to the Home Office. Due to the COVID-19 situation the Quality Assurance (QA) Panel was unable to meet as scheduled 23rd July therefore the report was assessed by a virtual process. For the virtual Panel, members provided their comments by email, the Home Office secretariat summarised the feedback and the Panel agreed the feedback.

The QA Panel felt the report was clear and concise with good engagement from family and friends which provided rich contextual material. Caroline's voice does come through and the Panel get a good sense of her as a person, and what was important to her.

The review does well to identify how wide the range of domestic abuse (DA) can be including – coercive control, physical abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, economic abuse and gaslighting. The report also highlights the risks to women who may have recently separated from violent and controlling partners.

The QA Panel felt that there are some aspects of the report which may benefit from further revision, but the Home Office is content that on completion of these changes, the DHR may be published.

Areas for final development:

- The report would benefit from including a local awareness raising campaign as part of the action plan. This homicide follows a very common pattern with known signs and concerns which were known amongst support networks (family / friends / the community) however it does not appear that people knew how to recognise signs of DA and where to go to raise these.
- Exploration around immigration requirements and how this can be used within a domestic abuse context to shape learning would be beneficial. There is some

indication that the perpetrator had used Caroline to some degree in order to secure his immigration status and there were possible elements of Caroline's abuse that were specifically related to the perpetrator's intentions to secure his immigration status as a spouse of a British national. This could be probed further to explore any possible learning around this.

- Panel expertise in relation to the perpetrator's Romanian heritage would have been beneficial to explore any cultural aspects that could have been relevant to shape learning. A specialist European Economic Area (EEA) domestic abuse service for example may be able to provide specific context and how this may have been relevant to Caroline's relationship with an EEA national and any possible barriers to help seeking.
- Did the panel explore the range of challenges around pregnancy/termination and sterilisation that present in this review? It may be that this element of the victim's life has been fully explored and the Chair chose not to include this at length but the QA Panel would like to see this noted if it is the case. It is unusual and concerning when DA is present to see a young woman sterilised at such a young age.
- 1.1.1 - Says that they had been in a relationship for 6 years, 2.1.1 says they had been in a relationship for nearly 5 years - this needs to be clarified or amended.
- 1.3.5 - A footnote might be useful to explain what Equation is. It is explained later in the report, but would be helpful here for context.
- 2.2.33 - References the health visitor making a home visit in August 2017 following the birth of a baby. But Caroline had a sterilisation on 19.07.2017. This needs looking at again as it indicated that Caroline had 4 children when in fact she had 3.
- It is unclear if Caroline's family offered the opportunity to meet with the DHR Panel and if any attempt was made to contact the perpetrator.
- The action plan is incomplete and needs completing before publication.

Once completed the Home Office would be grateful if you could provide us with a digital copy of the revised final version of the report with all finalised attachments and appendices and the weblink to the site where the report will be published. Please ensure this letter is published alongside the report.

Please send the digital copy and weblink to DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk. This is for our own records for future analysis to go towards highlighting best practice and to inform public policy.

On behalf of the QA Panel, I would like to thank you, the report chair and author, and other colleagues for the considerable work that you have put into this review.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Abrams

Chair of the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel

